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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. VB
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EXAMINER

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER 5
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DATE MAILED:

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/335,032

Applicant(s)

Velculescu et al

Examiner

James Martinell

Group Art Unit

1633



Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____

This action is **FINAL**.

Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 1 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

X Claim(s) 1-42 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

X Claims 1-42 are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.

received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

Interview Summary, PTO-413

Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-11, 21, 28, and 42, drawn to DNAs and probes, classified in class 536, subclasses 23.1 and 23.7.
- II. Claims 12-16, drawn to methods of affecting the cell cycle, classified in class 514, subclass 44.
- III. Claims 17, 18, 29-31, and 38-41, drawn to methods of screening for drugs, classified in class 435, subclass 29.
- IV. Claims 19 and 20, drawn to methods of identifying human genes, classified in class 435, subclass 6.
- V. Claims 32-37, drawn to collections of probes, classified in class 536, subclass 23.1.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other for the following reasons. The DNAs and probes of Group I can be used for methods other than those of Groups II-IV (e.g., in affinity chromatography). The DNAs and probes of Group I are distinct from the collections of probes in Group V (see below). The

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methods of each of Groups II-IV can be practiced independently of one another. The collections of probes of Group V are not required for any of the methods of Groups II-IV.

Claims 1-11, 16, 18, and 20-28 are drawn to nucleotides, nucleotide constructs, and/or methods requiring the use of nucleotides or nucleotide constructs that contain more than one individual, independent, and distinct nucleotide sequences in alternative form. Accordingly, these claims are subject to restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 as outlined in 1192 O.G. 68 (November 19, 1996).

Applicant is required to select no more than FIVE of the individual sequences for examination. The search of the no more than FIVE selected sequences may include the complements of the selected sequences and, where appropriate, may include subsequences within the selected sequences (e.g., oligomeric probes and/or primers).

Claims 32-37 are drawn to composition claims reciting different combinations of individual nucleotide sequences.

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Applicant is required to select one combination for examination. If the selected combination contains ten or fewer sequences, all of the sequences of the combination will be searched. If the selected combination contains more than ten sequences, the combination will be searched until one nucleotide sequence is found to be allowable. The order of searching will be chosen by the examiner to maximize the identification of an allowable sequence. If no individual nucleotide sequence is found to be allowable, the examiner will consider whether the combination of sequences taken as a whole renders the claims allowable. The identification of any allowable sequence(s) will cause all combinations containing the allowed sequence(s) to be allowed. See O.G. 68 (November 19, 1996).

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification and because of their recognized divergent subject matter restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

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Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Certain papers related to this application may be submitted to Group 1800 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Art Unit 1804 at (703) 308-4242. The faxing of such papers must conform with the rules published in the Official Gazette, 1156 OG 61 (November 16, 1993).

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to J. Martinell at telephone number (703) 308-0296.


JAMES MARTINELL, Ph.D.
SENIOR LEVEL EXAMINER